

## Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1154

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: US-MEXICAN TRADE RELATIONS: SHRIMP INVESTIGATION

A. MEXICO 9935; B. STATE 268681

1. SUMMARY: ITC INVESTIGATION SHRIMP INDUSTRY, INCLUDING HEARINGS, CAUSING CONSIDERABLE GOM CONCERN OVER US-MEXICAN TRADE RELATIONS, WITH MEXICANS CHARGING ITC INITIATED INVESTIGATION TO FAN PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN US FOR RESTRICTIONS, CHARGE WHICH USG OFFICIALS DENY. EFFECTIVE REBUTTAL THESE CHARGES WOULD SERVE IMPROVE US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. EMBASSY SUGGEST FORTHCOMING VISIT OF KEY GOM FISHERIES OFFICIAL TO WASHINGTON FOR HEARINGS PROVIDES EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY CLARIFY MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI'S CALL ON DAS GLITMAN QUESTION WAS RAISED CONCERNING ITC SHRIMP INVESTIGATION NOW UNDERWAY. WE UNDERSTAND FIRST OF THREE ITC HEARINGS WERE HELD IN KODIAK EARLY THIS MONTH, FOLLOWED BY NOVEMBER 10 MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS,  
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WITH FINAL HEARINGS SET FOR WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 18.

MEXICANS APPARENTLY WERE REPRESENTED AT KODIAK HEARINGS, AND UNDER SECRETARY OF FISHERIES HECTOR MEDINA NERI (OF SECRETARIAT INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE) PLANS PERSONALLY TO ATTEND WASHINGTON HEARINGS NEXT WEEK. SHRIMP QUESTION ALSO RAISED DURING MEETINGS AMBASSADOR YEUTTER HELD WITH SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS (REFTEL A).

3. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US FROM PARA 7 REFTEL A JUST WHAT BACKGROUND IS ON INITIATION ITC SHRIMP INVESTIGATION. IF ITC WILL NOT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH COULD RESULT IN ANY RESTRICTIVE MEASURES TO MEXICAN SHRIMP EXPORTS, THEN WHAT IS PURPOSE INVESTIGATING CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION IN SHRIMP INDUSTRY? IS ITC INVESTIGATION BASED ON REQUEST OF SEGMENT OF SHRIMP INDUSTRY ENGAGED IN DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, ON CONGRESSIONAL, OR ON ADMINISTRATION INTEREST? HOW CAN WE BEST REBUT CHARGES (IF UNFOUNDED) SUCH AS DE OLLOQUI'S CLAIM THAT IN THE CASE OF SHRIMP "THE ITC BEGAN AN INVESTIGATION ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE, WITHOUT HAVING BEEN ASKED TO DO SO BY THE US INDUSTRY, THE CONGRESS, OR THE PRESIDENT," AND DE OLLOQUI'S COMPLAINT THAT THE CALLING OF HEARINGS IN ALASKA AND NEW ORLEANS WAS AN OPEN INVITATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS IN THE SHRIMP INDUSTRY. AS REPORT MEXICO 9923, EXCELSIOR QUOTED A MEXICAN EMBASSY BULLETIN AS REMARKING THAT IN THE PAST IT HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED NECESSARY "TO RUN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY LOOKING FOR THE PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT TO JUSTIFY THE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS."

4. MEANWHILE, GOM OFFICIALS' CRITICISM OF ITC ACTIONS CONTINUE TO BE COVERED BY PRESS HERE (E.G. DE OLLOQUI CHARGES BEING ECHOED BY MEXICAN FOREIGN TRADE INSTITUTE DIRECTOR FAESLER). IN ORDER REBUT SUCH CRITICISM EMBASSY NEEDS MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SHRIMP INVESTIGATION ISSUE. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER TAKING ADVANTAGE VISIT TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK OF UNDER SECRETARY MEDINA NERI TO CLARIFY SITUATION REGARDING ITC SHRIMP INVESTIGATION. SHRIMP TRADE IS VERY IMPORTANT BOTH TO US, WHICH CANNOT MEET DOMESTIC DEMANDS FROM DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, AND TO MEXICO, WHICH LAST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YEAR EXPORTED SOME 40,000 TONS OF SHRIMP TO US WITH VALUE OF SOME 111 MILLION DOLLARS. CLARIFICATION OF MOTIVES FOR ITC SHRIMP INVESTIGATION WOULD THUS REMOVE IMPORTANT CAUSE OF FRICTION IN US-MEXICAN TRADE RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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